

File 1
ATT: KARL BRETTIG

LEADERS
Jacob's Ladder - Dr. Martin Luther King
1929 - 1968 - 1968 - 1968

ADELAIDE
MAY 1968





LOOKING AHEAD

"Man proposes and God disposes". At least that has been our experience as we look back.

Looking back we have seen the truth of this old adage working itself out in our midst. "Man proposes and God disposes" - that's a reef upon which lies the wreckage of whole convoys of our past human efforts, which were launched by our arrogant self-sufficiency, and thus had to fail - for they spoke more of the glory to man than of honouring and praising God.

We set up committees - we make big plans - we establish structures to organise God's - and.....God's Creator Spirit sneezes His offense at our arrogance, and buffs our earhouse in. Ignorant, stubborn creatures that we are no sooner have we stepped out of the wreckage of one plan which God has had to bring to nought and we then launch some new 'Titanic' in the name of Christian ministry and watch horrified as God disposes.

You shall have no other gods but me! A command that demands full obedience, no matter whether spoken by the god called "western materialism", "communistic materialism", the blonde you're really hooked on", institutional states god" or the "God who created the heavens and the earth". Man in the flesh builds his natchstick babels to hide his need for security in. We have seen such a man so often in the past!

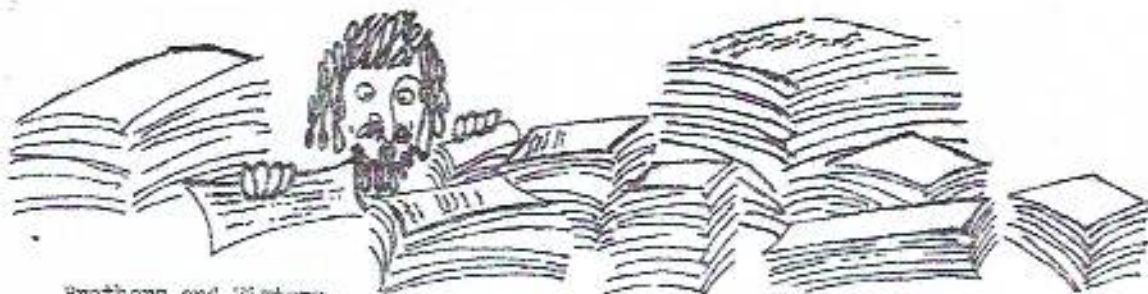
Very much of what Jacob's Ladder has experienced and attempted in the past has been greatly blessed of God. Many persons have found the door into the Kingdom of God - Jesus. However, on looking back we have trusted too much on human effort, human structures, human striving. All this has boxed out of a self sufficiency from God, suckled on the milk of a religion which doesn't really believe that God is in control right now anyone and married to basic lack of faith. Our unbelief has often forbidden us from stopping, shutting up and listening to what God has to say concerning His Gospel, for His mission, by His people to the ones He wants to reach in the way He would want to reach them.

Looking ahead we shall trust the Lord. Looking ahead we shall let God be God in our midst. We are learning to trust God's Word for that it really is - God addressing us with His plan for His creation. We are learning to recognise that Jesus said what he meant concerning the will of God for us, and Jesus meant what he said concerning the life we are called to in following Him. We are learning to do things God's way - instead of my way.

Looking ahead we see God's call to us to be His Sons in His Kingdom bearing the fruits of His life given us through Jesus and implanted in us by His Spirit as being a real and experientiable proposition for our lives and ministry. We hear God's call to us to be fishers of men, witnesses to all mankind coming through loud and clear. Looking ahead we see the cost of discipleship as Jesus laid it on the line to be.

Looking ahead we see Jesus coming again to claim us His own for eternity.

Amem
Rev. Doug Wahl.



Brothers and Sisters,

name of Jesus! We praise God that this newsletter comes to you at a point in time when Jakes ministry is reaching the stage where communication in the form of a newsletter is becoming possible again! Many have felt for a long time that this kind of communication has been sadly non-forthcoming or lacking or something. However the Lord's grace has been such that He has now provided a team of workers that will enable us to at least make some attempt to tell you whats going on (and still get some sleep at the same time!).

Enough excuses. Most of us don't need any practice at making them anyway.

Its a bit hard to know where to begin when we stop to think about all that has happened at Jakes since the last newsletter came out. So rather than try to do that we'll attempt to put you in the picture of what's happening at the moment in the various ministries.

Coffee House	--	Drop Inn	--	Karl
Street Work	-	Bike Group	--	Jeff
Hemley Beach Ministry	-	-	--	Bert
Dovey	-	-	--	Brug V.
Community Houses	-	-	--	Steen
Looking Ahead	-	-	--	Doug



Coffee House

A couple of weeks ago quite a majority of those concerned with the coffee house ministry at 102 Gasler Place were prepared to close it down. We were concerned about the kind of witness we are giving to the name of Jesus as many of the team had grown 'weary in well-going' while others were not being prepared to do the job the Lord has asked us to do. It was also felt that like so many ministries in the church the coffee house was becoming institutionalized and failing to meet the needs of the people it was supposed to be ministering to and that we needed to place the whole matter before the Lord.

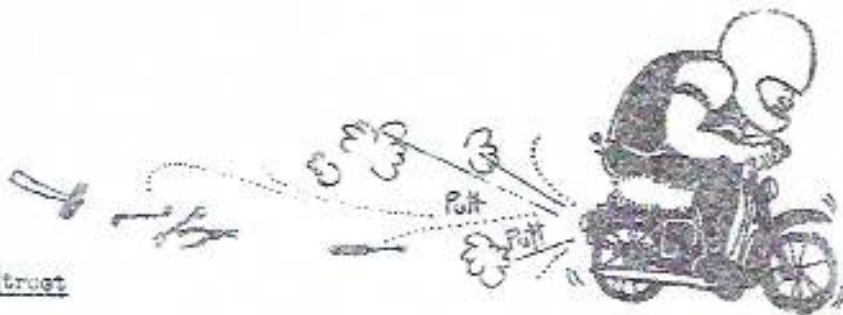
Well, the outcome has been that we have been given renewed vision for this ministry and currently the place is to be given an environmental overhaul and its people are to seek to give a clearer communication of Jesus and the life that he offers. We ask that you would pray to this end.

During 1974 the coffee house ministry was blessed by the Lord in many ways. In 1975 it is our prayer that through the various media of music drama and film a deeper communication and penetration of the Gospel of Jesus will occur. However we must not forget that people are the media through whom the spirit of God moves and we all need to grow into a deeper awareness of what this means in terms of ministry.

Karl

Coming.....Coming.....Coming.....

Os Guinness arrives in Australia on June 26th. Be prepared! Read 'Dust of Death' and tapes available.



Bike and Street

"Kerux Adelaide Motorcycle Club" is the result of an amalgamation made in early 1974 between two smaller bike groups and an established motorcycle club formerly "God's Disciples M.C.C. The present combined club exists as a ministry arm of the "Jacob's Ladder Jesus Family Concern" ("Jakes") to be used as a tool and catalyst to stimulate and contribute towards a greater appreciation in cultural awareness of the gospel of Christ amongst the hitherto unevangelised and unchurched, and so facilitate Adelaide and Australia-wide revival and witness to Jesus. We do not need to wait for a nation-wide revival but to simply live our lives God's way for this and every moment, then we will be revived people of God.

We are into a love and peace thing (Eph. 4:1-6) coming together as a club manifesting the life transforming power of God's spirit; working together side-by-side in mutual aid, comradeship, brotherhood and discipleship in the Christian walk to further our interest and knowledge in the Faith as a concerned community of committed Christian motorcyclists; we also provide an avenue for outreach, fellowship and activities of a workable non-establishment Christian alternative lifestyle.

Although digging bikes, we're so burdened by the scene and so challenged by Jesus, that as free-will love-slaves "Kerux" are dedicated to a love and peace experience of a living God demonstrated through a quality of Jesus lifestyle that comes under the law of the bike-scene and that is both workable and alternative, possessing cultural awareness, relevancy and sensitivity.

We attempt to establish and maintain a level of identification and communication, especially to our outlaw bike brothers and sisters, and to the other sub-cultural street level scenes; a generation probably more so than ever before in history that is lost, blinded, seeking but looking in the wrong directions, consumed by self, hardened and alienated into a socially pressured and rejected sub-cultural level of existence, bound in darkness, susceptible to drug and demonic influences, and so become real strongholds for the enemy, (the originator of rebellion, misery and death).

As channels of this peace, vessels of this love, and vehicles of this message, by the wonder-working and liberating power of God's spirit working in and through us, we live a life put right with God, and unashamedly share a message of deliverance from the blindness, darkness and spiritual chains that bind us in spiritual death outside of Jesus' freedom experience. "Kerux" brothers and sisters realize that whole-hearted commitment to such a ministry involves a lifestyle of sacrifice where the lessons of denial of self and of seeking first God's Kingdom and His righteousness are learnt if one is willing to pay the cost of radical discipleship in Jesus. God honours our lives because we've learned to honour Him, now God rides in and through us as we fly colours for His eternal glory and witness, upholding Jesus as our first love and true concern.

This then is our mission field, where our ministry lies and what "Kerux" is all about; commissioned with "Jakes" ministry in general and challenged as a result of a surrendered life to God to become fruitful committed believers and faithful heralds of the Living Word, we are sent to bind the broken hearted, spaced out, ripped-off, to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison doors to those who are bound; everyone only one heart-beat away from an eternity of spiritual death and all brothers and sisters potentially twice born into God's Forever Family; the loving, caring, healing and restoring community of believers in and friends of the God who has done and is doing so much to make us all that we were ever truly meant to be or ever could be.

Jeff (Scrooge)



Last week two members of the staff at "Sunshine" prayed about the vision that God would give to them concerning the future of "Sunshine". God revealed to them two things. One dealt with "Sunshine" as it is now and the work that can be done at the Centre before it is bulldozed by the Council. The second dealt with the future of our ministry at Henley. What was needed they felt, would be a community house in the area, where the young kids with whom we've made contact would be able to come for nurture and instruction in God's word. They also prayed that when a third member of the staff heard this vision, that he would confirm whether or not it be God's will. Fifteen minutes after that staff member positively confirmed the vision. A woman who works with the Henley Beach Council rang to say that she was prepared to look for a house in the area which we would be able to rent....

"Sunshine" Centre was opened in about November of last year, but due to lack of people to run it effectively it never really got under way until late January. Since that time we've made contact with about 20-25 young kids, age range from 9-16. They hang around as a group and frequent the "Fun Parlour" which has pool tables and pin-ball machines. Now their time is spent between the Parlour and the Centre. Most of the time is spent just getting to know the kids, and by now they know who we are and why we're there. We're sons of God and Jesus is our brother and we're there to share God's love and his gospel. Three people have responded to that and given their lives to Jesus and we believe that many more will too, if we continue to show that we care for them. We're also confident that some day we will be able to witness to the kid's parents and eventually to the whole community of Henley Beach.

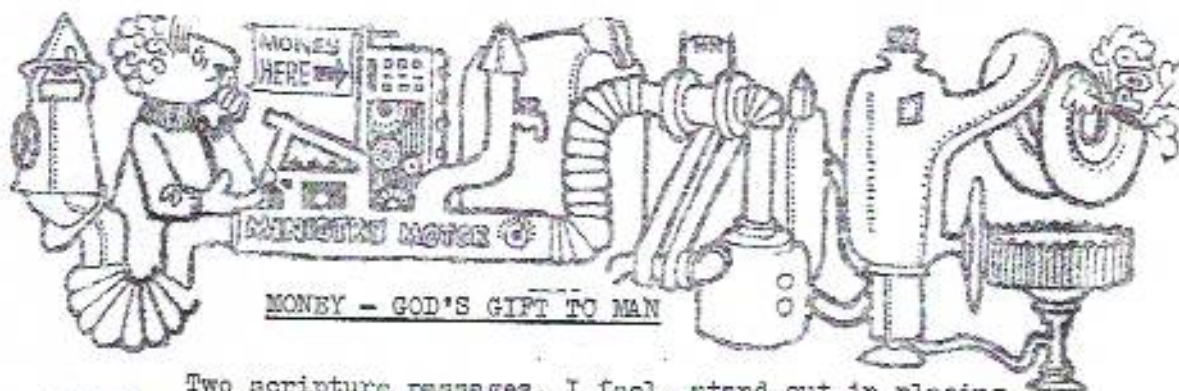
However it's not all "peaches and cream" or "roses and lillies". Firstly the people who live on either side of the centre are drawing up a petition to have us removed. We're still there!! Second, and far more pertinent to the situation is the fact that many of the kids are just 'burning' themselves out, to the extent that they may be dead at 15 and buried at 75.

It may also be the generation that Toffler talks about. The generation of "Future Shock". That may be dramatizing the situation somewhat, but already many are smoking themselves to death (mostly tobacco with the occasional joint). One of their big thrills is to get "drunk" - don't ask me how they get it, but they've got it. Sometimes a dozen cans!! Sex is fairly cheap too - but how do you discern right from wrong when you know only too well that your father has one or two girlfriends, or your mother has a variety of "uncles". Now that's a generalization too but what is happening really is that the kids are following their parents, but already they're caught up in drudgery and some are bored.

And that is one of our greatest enemies BOREDOM. The only way we can fight it is thru' T.L.C. (tender loving care) and pray that one day soon they'll find the excitement of living the true and only way with Jesus Christ as their risen Lord.

Peter S (Bart)





MONEY - GOD'S GIFT TO MAN

Two scripture passages, I feel, stand out in placing ourselves in a right relationship to God and subsequently having complete confidence in Him and then the Christians response to God's guiding.

Firstly Psalm 37:V5 "Commit your way to the Lord, Trust in Him and He will act"

Secondly Psalm 116:V18, "What shall I render to the Lord for all His goodness to me"

Surely all Christians can never doubt that God will supply all needs once we have committed our lives to Him. Our lives, talents and God's gifts to Christians, even money, are used in His service. People will respond spontaneously to the call to equip and give to a Christ centred ministry in order that the Gospel of Christ can sound out loud and clear. An army will never fight effectively if it is constantly concerned about where its food and weapons are to come from if at all. God will see to it that His workers have all they need, not necessarily what they want. But this requires total commitment to His will, and obedience to His word.

Once people rely solely on God then He can do marvellous things. This also applies to the area of finance for various ministries. A Christian ministry must never get bogged down in budgets and balance sheets for their sakes alone. True, we must look at our programmes in the light of God's will for us and not carelessly channel money into fruitless areas or bolster up areas of ministry for the sake of a "pet" project else the ministry will become just pure human effort.

The ministry at Jacob's Ladder has been blest by people giving to the needs of this outreach ministry. There may come times when pruning has to be done, but this will only happen when we step outside of God's will and purpose for us and do our "own thing".

At the present time Jacob's Ladder ministry has 5 full time people on the staff - \$5,000 has been granted by the S.A. Govt toward the salary of the Director. The rest of the money, \$12,000 will be met by the community at Jacob's Ladder and friends.

To run the present Drop-in Centre, Coffee Lounge and build up the Resource Centre, library and casset tape ministry costs approx. @7,500 per year.

Other areas of ministry, drug rehabilitation workers rehabilitation centres and nurture houses will open up as the Lord leads and as His committed people respond to His call. Perhaps God will raise up sponsors, those who cannot partake in the work directly, but who are led of the Lord to support this ministry financially.

But above all people can pray for the Ministry - firstly that God's Will shall always be done, secondly that people may respond to His call and commit their lives to him and lead a Christ centred life, led by the power of the Holy Spirit and thirdly that He will supply all our wants when we ask Him in a proper prayer filled life.

Doug Vogelsang

COMMUNITY HOUSES



Just last weekend the Lord led another brother to share his experiences of community living and ministry with us. This time from Indonesia. Ed Stubbe hit the nail on the head when he commented "the quickest way to die is to move into a community house". These days death seems to be where its at, at least in our communities at Highgate and Norwood. We're slowly learning to die. As we live together we begin to understand how our pride and selfishness hurts others. We discover that some of those things about ourselves which we thought were 'clever' 'cute' or 'just us' are in fact being used to undermine our relationships with our fellows. And so God slowly puts us to death.

Kind of reminds us of something Jesus told his disciples when Peter tried to tell him that he should forget such crazy notions as dying on a cross:

"If anyone wants to come with me, he must forget himself, carry his cross and follow me. For the man who wants to save his own life will lose it, but the man who loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it".

Jesus went on to die on that cross in spite of Peter's short cut. The story doesn't end there of course - his father raised him up to a new and full life with himself. But the fact still remains - he died first. We're discovering that its the same with us.

Ed also shared lots about worship, getting into God's word to learn how God would have us minister and seeking his guidance for the specifics of our ministry. Luckily for all you guys (and chicks - '75 has something to do with women doesn't it?) who didn't get to hear him, we taped it so if you're interested give us a holler (332 5790 is where we're at) and we'll see what we can arrange.

We're being led into a deeper understanding that community houses are a ministry in themselves and not just places for Christians to get together to live or even just for fellowship. All this means that if you haven't been asked to live in a community house you don't have to go down the road to eat worms'. Everyone still loves you. It probably just means that the Lord hasn't called you to the specific ministry involved in a community house, so don't fret, just serve Him where He puts you.

In conclusion brothers and sisters we ask for your prayers as we will pray for you that the Lord will be able to achieve in us and through us that which he has planned, so that we will truly glorify Him through our lives.

Peace,

Steen

